WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 8 THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION DECEMBER 2003

Free Radio Olympia 91.3 FM: Power to the People!

Joy Tudewerld

Free Radio Olympia is an unlicensed radio station broadcasting on 91.3 FM in Olympia, Washington. We are on the air 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in and around Olympia. When we're not making radio, we sometimes stream Freak Radio Santa Cruz, or our other "sister stations.

You can hear 'Democracy Now' with Amy Goodman on FRO most every weekday from noon to 1 PM, and 'Free Speech Radio News' weekdays from 5 to 5:30 PM [except sometimes on Tuesdays when DJ Outlaw makes his own news]. The rest of the time, we strive to bring you news and information not available elsewhere, as well as all manner of sounds to unwind your mind and rethread your head.

The next step is interactive radio whereby you the listener, through the wonders of modern telecommunications, can participate and share your own music and words with the rest of us from the comfort of your own home. We will soon be streaming on the internet as well, and a programming schedule will also made available on our website: http://www.olynetwork.com/freeradioolympia/

THE FRO STORY

In the interest of providing the community with a media tool uncensored by the government and corporate interests, a group of independent media activists, DJs, and technicians created an unlicensed free radio station in Olympia in the spring of 2001, broadcasting on 91.3 FM.

In June 2002, Free Radio Olympia was threatened by the evil minions of the Federal Communications Commission, and (sadly) went off the air in Olympia. This will not happen again, as the current crew has committed to a civil disobedience strategy that strongly believes in Free Speech as an unalienable right of the People, not just those institutions who are able to get a license.

In September of 2002 Free Radio Olympia joined forces with elements of Radio Free Cascadia and Oregon Underground Radio to deliver a strong signal in Seattle for five days to protest the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) 2002 Radio Show in cooperation with the Electronic Mosquito Fleet, which drew free radio activists from around the nation to Seattle to participate. Our combined effort, Justice Airwaves Mobilization—JAM 101.1 FM, was one of the strongest signals on the airwaves, broadcasting with 100 watts from a tree on the Olympic Peninsula, and taking our cue from the legendary pirate Y2WTKO , which played a historic role during the protests of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Seattle, 1999.

Free Radio Olympia is the latest manifestation of the potent underground of media activism in and around Olympia. Thanks to the wonders of modern technology, those who oppose free speech in our community will find us impossible to eradicate. The enemies of free expression will face many obstacles, among them committed lawyers who believe strongly in the First Amendment, and a community of activists already well-versed in the culture of resistance. If there should be difficulties, they are sure to see more transmitters and studios appearing in the fertile soil of Olympia, like mushrooms after a storm.

Mission Statement

We recognize that free speech is a right, which is denied the people by the federal government as represented by the Federal Communications Commission

(FCC) and corporate media groups such as the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) and its powerful members such as Clear Channel, who maintain a powerful monopoly over media in the United States, and have no interest in providing the public with access to the public airwaves.

Free Radio Olympia's goal is to provide information and education to the community by offering diverse content including independent and local music, alternative commentary and news programs, and coverage of local events, none of which are made available by mainstream radio stations. The content and nature of free radio broadcasting is determined by those who feel the need and desire for expression on the airwaves by participating in Free Radio Olympia, with the only limit to speech being an intolerance of hate speech and threats to individuals.

Our community is culturally and politically diverse, and our station strives to reflect that diversity. In order for radio to be used effectively as a tool by the community, we feel that community participation is necessary. Free microradio offers the community a means for outreach to communicate, organize, and unify.

We oppose the corporate domination of radio, which privatizes what should instead be a public community-based service. In addition, we believe that the FCC 's recently enacted licensing structure for low-power FM (LPFM) operations have failed to serve the needs of communities, due to excessive limitations on licensing and spectrum allocation and the very high cost of FCC type-accepted broadcasting equipment. In the form and spirit of direct action, in solidarity with the worldwide micro-radio movement, and as a challenge to the so-called "authorities" whose authority we do not recognize, we create programming to be broadcast without a license over Olympia's airwaves. We invite you to take part in the movement and join Free Radio Olympia!

If you have music, money, or materials to donate, if you want to make radio, or help out in any other way, please contact us at: fro@riseup.net

"The revolution will not be televised, but it WILL be broadcast!"

Love,
FRO

Olympia Mayor's Race Analysis

Drew Hendricks

Sarah Jewett made strong headway between September and November, gaining almost 700 voters over her Primary results. Her opponent, Mark Foutch, actually lost 244 votes between the two races.

It was not enough to win Sarah the election, however. She lost her race by 855 votes, just over 10% of the votes in the General Election.

Primary candidate John Kangas had won 1,032 votes in his bid for the ballot, but his supporters did not vote for Sarah in large numbers. Almost 600 fewer voters turned out in the General Election. Most of these were likely Kangas' supporters.

Sarah's support came mostly from the downtown core of Olympia, the south capitol campus neighborhoods, and the West side near the Food Co-op. She won 18 precincts and tied one precinct in the General Election. She had only won 8 precincts in the Primary. She held onto every precinct she won in the Primary and reversed ten more.

Four of the ten precincts Sarah reversed saw steep declines in Mark Foutch's support. Three of the precincts Sarah reversed saw strong increases in her own support.

For the most part, Sarah's growth in votes came from grassroots door-to-door campaigning late in the election, and was complimented by a decline in Mark's support due to wider issues such as the ConArtist Center.

Sarah did lose some support between the two elections, but only in 5 precincts, totaling only 25 votes. Mark Foutch lost votes in 35 precincts from his primary. He did much better in only two core precincts.

Mark Foutch's support came from the edges of Olympia, especially south of I-5 and East of the Deschutes. His strongest support came from Precinct 250, which is the core of the Eastside Neighborhood Association which he founded. He gained 81 votes in this precinct alone, over his primary results. His other large improvement came in precinct 204, the downtown area. But Sarah won more votes there than any other candidate in the election.

If Olympia were divided into Wards, and Sarah had been in a race for a City Council seat, she would likely have won with the base of support she has already demonstrated. The Mayor's position, however, would likely be an at-large election even if we had wards.

Mark Foutch raised $13,083 in this campaign, or $2.82 for every vote he got in the General Election. Sarah Jewett raised less than $3,500 in this campaign, for at most $.92 per vote in the General Election.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/ black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! Or you aren't submitting it!

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, <wip@olywa.net>

Back Issues:

Get your catalog of indexed WIPs below. Some back issues are available in the Timberland Library system. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

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Teresa Jennings
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Kayden
Margaret Love
Sandy Mayes
Hali Panneton
Jeff Sowers
Sylvia Smith
Pat Tassoni
Robert Ross
Drew Hendricks
Tom Chenhall
Jenni Minner

Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, December 19th

WIP Meeting
Call 956-1168 for more info

Works In Progress
PO Box 295 Olympia, WA 98507
Wip@olywa.net * 360-956-1168
www.olywa.net/wip

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The Emma Goldman Youth and Homeless Outreach Project

CHRISTMAS FOR THE HOMELESS

EGYHOP generates around 50 gift donations from people like you. Ask yourself, if you were homeless, what small item(s) would you want in order to make life just a little bit easier? Some suggested items: flashlights, batteries, candles, first-aid kits, gym bags, shaving kits, backpacks, key chain tools, nail clippers, gloves, sewing kits, thermal underwear (especially bottoms!), art supplies, houses (OK, maybe not that) or just about anything that might make someone feel thought of on Christmas.

To make a donation, contact EGYHOP by calling Long Hair David at (360) 791-2241.

Works In Progress Schedule for the January 2004 Edition

Submission Deadline:
Friday December 19th

Meeting: Sunday Dec 21st
Call 956-1168 for info

Wip will be printed on

Announcements Continued Page 11

If the grocery workers in Southern California fail, this is what they face

A typical UFCW member working at a Southern California grocery store is a single mom with three kids. She works an average of 30 hours per week, and makes $12.30 an hour.

That translates to:

* **$369 dollars/week, $1,597/ month, or $19,173 /year before taxes**

The employers' cuts in health care funding will force her and other new hire and current employees on average to pay to maintain current benefits:

* **$95/week, $412/month, or $4,940/year**

She would spend 25% of her before-tax income on health insurance.

Source: United Food and Commercial Workers

BEFORE YOU FORGET, GET INVOLVED! (SEE BELOW)

SOUTH SOUND GREEN PAGES

South Sound's Monthly Environmental Newspaper

Green Pages is a forum for individuals and organizations concerned about the integrity of our environment and the quality of life in our community.

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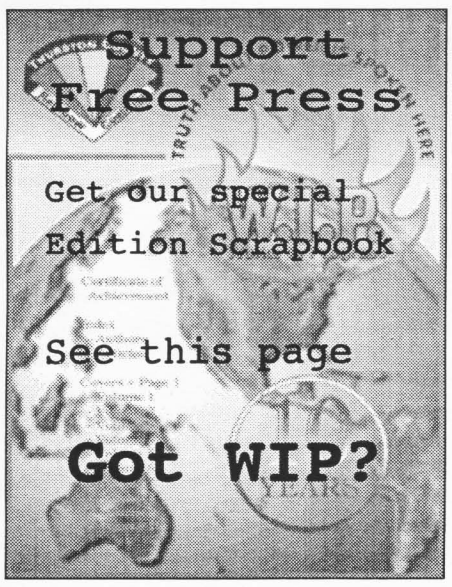

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DECEMBER 2003

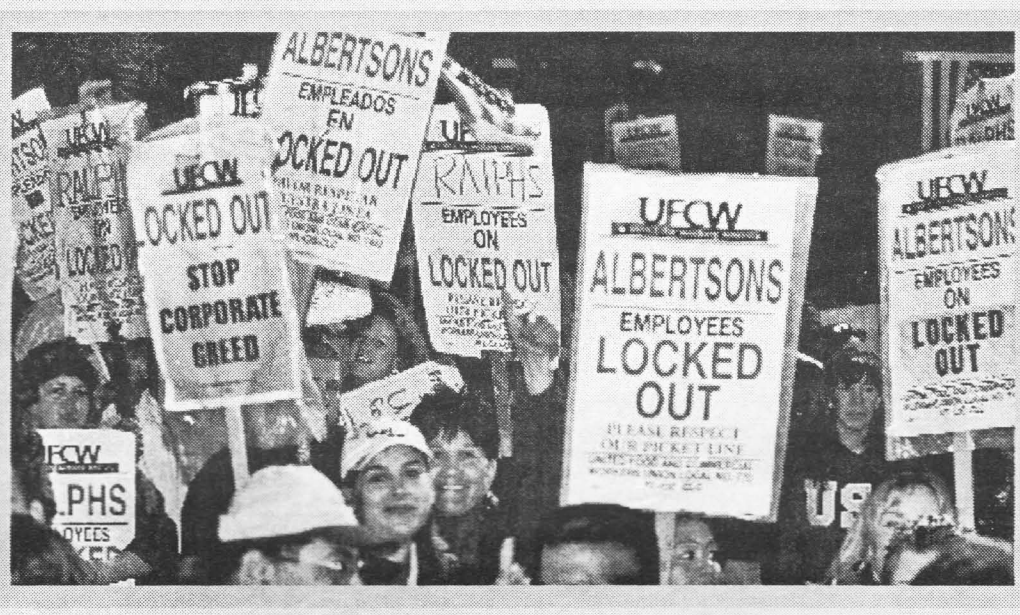
Southern California Grocery Strike/Lockout

The stakes are high

Union: UFCW 70,000 on lines

Grocery store chains involved:

- **Albertsons**
- **Vons** (Safeway)
- **Ralphs** (Kroger which also owns Fred Meyers)



Rejected offer

Two-year raise freeze, $780 annual premiums for reduced health benefits, and a two-tier system: lower pay scale for new hires with little in medical benefits, and no pension.

If the employers succeed in their effort to extract large concessions, they will turn these into low-wage jobs, and other employers across the nation will see this as a green light to try to do the same thing.

Ruth Milkman, University of California Institute for Labor and Employment

Sources: Steven Greenhouse, *New York Times;* Alex Veiga, AP; *New York Times* **Photo Credit:** UFCW, Local 770

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Don't Let Us Become Another Wal-Mart Picket's sign	**1** 1998: Boeing to cut 20,000 more jobs; total of 48,000 for the year 2002: Israel troops visit home of AP photographer Nasser Nasser	**2** 2002: OR Gov Kitzhaber formally apologizes for state's past eugenics laws that led to forced sterilization of 100s of Oregonians	**3** 2002: Rebel faction in Burundi's 9-year civil war agrees to cease-fire 2002: UN Gen. Assembly approves 6 resolutions criticizing Israeli	**4** 2001: Sharon calls the Palestinian Authority "terror-supporting" 2002: Iraq's vice-pres. accuses UN inspectors of being spies for US	**5** 2002: 1/3 of US large employers that offer health care to retirees have stopped benefits for future retirees or will do so w/in 3 years	**6** 2002: Bush administration temporarily stops lawsuit seeking documents about inner workings of Cheney's energy task force
7 2002: Iraq hands over 12,000 pages detailing its chemical, biological and nuclear programs; report is to be kept secret	**8** 1999: Memphis jury finds MLK is a victim of a conspiracy 2002: US negotiates w/ UN, gains full access to Iraq's weapons report	**9** 2002: Israeli troops kill mentally handicapped Palestinian; when told he was mentally retarded they said "that's not our problem"	**10** 2002: Bush considering selling Postal Service 2002: It is revealed billionaire nominee Snow sometimes pays no federal income taxes	**11** 2002: Bush orders small pox vaccinations for military personnel 2002: State Capitol Committee cans Capitol Lake estuary study	**12** 2001: Israeli says Arafat not "relevant" 2002: US declares Iraq's weapons declaration doesn't account for all Iraq's weapons	**13** 2001: Coalition of lawyers doctors, pharmacists call for a "shift" from the drug war to a "public health model" of treatment
14 1859: GA law bans granting freedom to slaves in wills 2001: Oregon's unemployment rate worst in nation at 7.4%	**15** 1919: Travelers' Aid reports 68,000 runaway girls in past year 2002: Sean Penn visits Baghdad to protest Bush's invasion plans	**16** 1998: US begins 4-day barrage of Iraq with hundreds of missiles 1999: US trade deficit set another monthly record of $25.9 billion	**17** 2002: "Die-in" held at Olympia Army Recruitment Center 2002: Man sentences 6 years for attack on Seattle mosque after 9-11	**18** 2001: Abu-Jamal's execution overturned 2002: Revised federal telemarketing rules to include a national "do-not-call" list	**19** 1995: Pendleton Report is released, critical of Police Chief Wurner's administration. Wurner says he won't step down	**20** 1828 Georgia declares Cherokee law null and void after June 1, 1830 1860: S Carolina secedes from the union, initiating the Civil War
21 1999: Federal judge rules the federal government has failed American Natives in its management of the trust fund system	**22** 2000: LOTT/Miller agreement provides $8 million to Miller; Miller claims it will increase production and create more jobs	**23** 1775: King George III issues royal proclamation closing the American colonies to all trade and commerce, effective March 1, 1776	**24** 2002: Saddam says Iraqis ready to fight a holy war against the US 2002: FBI asks schools to provide info on foreign students/faculty	**25** 1991: Gorbachev announces he is resigning as USSR president 1941: The British surrenders Hong Kong to the Japanese	**26** 2002: Iraq agrees to allow its weapons scientists to leave Iraq 2002: Viagra reducing demand for endangered animals	**27** 2002: In Florida news conference Clonaid announces it has produced the first human clone (of its mother) delivered by caesarean
28 2002: Internal White House memo outlines re-election agenda beginning w/ "War on terrorism", homeland security, legal reform	**29** 1950: Passage of Celler-Kefauver Anti-merger Act to, in part, reign in super-sized corporations that threaten competition	**30** 2002: UN Security Council tightens imports to Iraq bans items that can be used in war 2002: Study: Welfare #s rose in 3/4 of states	**31** 2002: US State Dept charges Boeing of sharing sensitive technology w/ China w/o public notice in a lawsuit in the last week	**Everyone should be concerned about this fight. It is, at bottom, about the ability of retail workers to earn wages [and health care benefits] that keep their families out of poverty.** *New York Times*		

Oral History of Anna Schlecht, Part 3: Movement Work, Campaign Work

Transcribed and edited by Megan Davis

Olympian Anna Schlecht has played many roles in the struggle for social justice, although she is probably best known for her persevering gay and lesbian civil rights work. This is an oral history based on excerpts of a '99 interview when, tape recorder rolling, she talked about the political work she does and the local activist community we share. This is the third of a four-part series.

(Megan) How have you seen things change politically over the years?

What I see with regard to anti-racist activists and gay rights activists [today] is a generation of people who are growing up in an environment that's very different from the one I grew up in. I grew up at the tail end of segregation. My formative years were during a period of intense race riots in this country, where people were totally polarized. And then, later on, all the riots over bussing. Not to say that things are all better now by any stretch of the imagination, but we're finally approaching a stage where people can actually talk about racism in the schoolroom and teachers are not supposed to allow bigotry in the classroom. But it's a very slow evolution.

[That's] movement work, where we're gonna be involved in this beyond the rest of our lives. Our children's children will be involved in this. You know, I don't expect to live to see a time when the world is what I want it to be, and it makes me sad sometimes. With movement work, we have to have a very long-range vision, and we have to take care of ourselves to get where we're going because we're not going to get there in our own lifetimes.

But campaign mode is more like the business approach - you know, single social justice issue, whether it's a candidate or a ballot measure. The past eight years I've been working on a number of campaign measures, like Initiative 677 which was a gay employment rights initiative, and then fighting initiatives that were anti-gay. The business approach in that is, "Well, what does 'smart money' say we should do?" It's kind of like, "If we were a factory, how would we make civil rights the cheapest and the most effective?" And that's not a very humane way to approach these things.

On the flip side, one of the exciting things about a campaign is that it generates a tremendous amount of visibility and money in a short period of time. It mobilizes large numbers of people who might not choose to become involved in a movement because, my god, that can take a whole lifetime! And it gets people to do things that they would never think about otherwise, like going door to door (canvassing) to talk about racism and affirmative action and sexism. Direct dialogue with real people is what politics is all about.

(Megan) How do issues of class, race, age, gender and ability come up in your work?

It's an ever-present challenge in any part of life. Either you accept hierarchy and you cope with it -which I do in my daily life, or you challenge it and you cope with the aftermath of challenging it.

Issues of privilege- who's got it and who doesn't- completely permeate society. I work in a government hierarchy where that runs rampant, and I choose to accept some of that in order to make a wage to support my family and the groups that I support politically. But in the political work that I do, I try to pick groups where people recognize that whatever single issue they may have come together for, these other things still permeate it.

"In political groups, a lot of times what you're trying to do is mobilize the political power to change something in society, and when you're looking at ways to mobilize power, it's such a temptation to follow the traditional pathways of power."

I think it's very hard for men to recognize how much sexism constantly rewards them. They're not even conscious of the ways they take power over women. Gender privilege, race privilege, physical ability privilege... There are so many ways that people can benefit from their privilege. It's hard for them to stay on top of it even when they're committed. And when they're not, it gets really ugly. I have to be very honest, that as hard as I've worked and as much as I continually put myself in situations where I'm challenged, I know still take advantage of the privileges I have as white woman. When you talk about this I think you have to be very honest in a very personal way, and start there.

One of the hardest things about political activism is that there's a lot of really good things that people are coming together to work on, but there's some level of what happens in society in that group. In political groups, a lot of times what you're trying to do is mobilize the political power to change something in society, and when you're looking at ways to mobilize power, it's such a temptation to follow the traditional pathways of power. There's always some level of, "We're gonna work on this affirmative action ballot measure, but we're gonna do it in a real white way. We're gonna target the most important people in Washington State, and that's white people." It's also the largest demographic group, if you want to swing voters.

It's sort of the "follow the money" kind of a business approach, and it's wrong! It's wrong to allow privilege to guide the resources in political organizing. It perpetuates the dividing line between the people who have the privilege and the people who don't. While it may change some things, it leaves too many things in place.

"Issues of privilege- who's got it and who doesn't- completely permeate society … [I]n the political work that I do, I try to pick groups where people recognize that whatever single issue they may have come together for, these other things still permeate it."

Let me talk about a group that I was involved with for the better part of eight years called Hands Off Washington, which was really unique. I don't think I'm exaggerating in saying that at the time it was the largest grassroots gay rights organization in the history of this country, and possibly the world. We organized across the state in little tiny towns that I've never been to, where we got gay activists and allies who support gay rights to get together to fight anti-gay initiatives that were being mobilized across the state.

Gay rights successes have historically been won in really huge cities where there are enough supporters to build civil rights coalitions to work on a broad range of racial justice, gender rights and other rights issues. Historically, there was not much happening in rural areas. Like for a lot of anti-racist movements, that's where we get lynched - literally. Except the victims of our lynchings aren't known to the world. It's been a very slow process to claim a place for gay civil rights in the broader movement, because our dead are not counted. I found that out in a very personal way when my own cousin was murdered, and it wasn't listed as a hate crime. The number of gays who are murdered because they're "fags" and "dykes" is unknown, and their families sure as hell don't want people to know they're gay. Partly it's because of the fact that survival for gays has meant hiding in the closet, which means that when they drag you out and kill you, they still don't know who you are when you're dead.

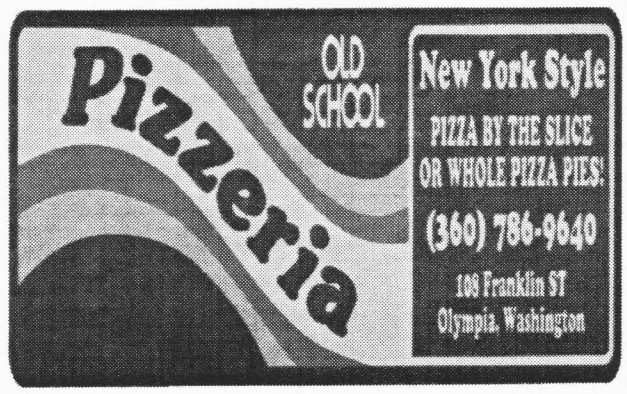
Hands Off Washington was really successful in organizing in scary little towns where the people resolved their diversity problems with two-by-fours and shotguns. Literally. Hands Off Washington brought an incredible wave of civil rights for people who have lived in fear and hiding, surviving all kinds of abuse, to walk into the light, and to experience political empowerment.

The grassroots part was to get coalitions organized all across the state, 22 counties. That was the "civil rights movement" approach. But the top half was a traditional campaign approach, where it was a centralized board that ran the show. The good part of Hands Off Washington was that it was a geographically, racially, gender and otherwise diverse board that represented a pretty good range of the breadth of the communities - all the different gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities. But it evolved over a couple of years to fitting that really traditional, white male-dominated campaign, where there's an elite executive board that makes all the decisions, and they raise a ton of money to pay professional political consultants who do know how to mess with popular opinion.

So Hands Off Washington began as an organization very based in the grassroots. It then evolved to using the grassroots as the fundraising arms for what was in truth a very centralized campaign. Even though by and large it was women making the decisions, the way they were doing it was in that traditional white male of means model of disempowering people by keeping the information away from them, [and] taking their resources but not involving them in the decisions.

In any group there is that tendency to [say], "Well, white men of money got there because they do this crap, so if we pull some of these dirty tricks for a good reason, maybe we will be able to advance gay civil rights." On a functional level that may be true, but what kind of victory is it when you level so many other forms of oppression in place?

Coming next month... Part 4: the Most Fertile Ground



Dennis Kucinich, the Only Progressive Presidential Candidate

Andras Jones

His last name is unpronounceable and, according to the people who decide such things, his middle name might as well be "unelectable." Yet, Dennis Kucinich is the only candidate who represents a genuine progressive alternative to George W. Bush.

Dennis Kucinich is the only candidate whose platform calls for reversing the damage that the current administration has wrought. He is the only candidate who would repeal the Patriot Act if he were elected, and the only candidate currently challenging NAFTA and WTO and championing the Kyoto global warming treaty. He's the only candidate who would repeal Bush's tax cut to the wealthy and re-invest that money in free public education, kindergarten through college. He is the only candidate who has stood unequivocally

"A strong Kucinich peace candidacy in the primaries could force the Democrats to act like Democrats instead of watered-down Republicans this election"

against the war, against the death penalty, and for universal health care and a "living wage", and the only candidate with a documented track record of standing up against corporate interests on

behalf of his constituency, as he did when he was mayor of Cleveland and foiled the plans of the banks and utility companies who wanted to privatize local power and run an Enron-style rip-off of the Cleveland energy market. Of course, in spite of, or, more likely, because of all of this good behavior (and the bad dye-job), the corporate media have anointed him "unelectable" and so, we are assured, he will not be receiving the nomination when the Democrats gather in Boston this July to decide who will run against Bush in November.

This is precisely why it is so important for progressive voters to throw all of their support behind Dennis Kucinich now. Doing so will send a strong message to the "electable" Democrats that the most popular positions for them to take may also be the most humane, and that by ignoring Kucinich the way that they ignored Nader in 2000, they run the risk of splitting the party and demoralizing the voters they need to beat Bush. A strong Kucinich peace candidacy in the primaries could force the Demo-

"If we act now the stench of compromise might not be quite so strong."

crats to act like Democrats instead of watered-down Republicans this election.

As filmmaker/author Michael Moore has been saying in speeches around the country, "Now is NOT the time to be in the 'anyone but Bush' camp."

There is plenty of time to fall in behind the Democratic nominee when he or she is chosen. Now is the time to not only vote your conscience, but actively support the candidate who comes the closest to representing your position on the issues. If you oppose the war, the Patriot Act, and the tax cut for the rich; if you support universal health care, environmental sustainability, social justice and a living wage; if you want more from a Democratic nominee than simply NOT being Bush, Dennis Kucinich should be your candidate, at least until the Democrats have named their lesser evil in July.

When the time comes we will all probably have to hold our noses and vote, but if we act now the stench of compromise might not be quite so strong. I know that's not a very inspiring sentiment to trumpet this election, but we've got to start being realistic. If we want to effect great change we have to be willing to do something to effect a little change first. Supporting Dennis Kucinich this winter and spring is the best electoral strategy I can see for progressives to influence this election, and we all know how important this one is.

Final Note: This may all be a moot point unless some serious attention is paid to the massive voter fraud-in-waiting which is the new electronic voting system that is being stealthily rushed into place for Election 2004. Supporting Kucinich is important. Insisting that all of our votes are counted, and that they count, is the difference between living in a Democracy and dying in a dictatorship.

Check out this link: http://www.truthout.org/docs_03/102003A.shtml

No New Jail - We Can Do Better

Chris Stegman

A new county wide group called Thurston Jail Alternatives was formed on November 23, 2003 coming out of a public meeting called by community activists that was attended by a diverse group of 36 people. The primary focus of the group will be to defeat the $88 million Jail Bond Issue for a proposed new 640 bed jail.

The bond issue is expected to be on the ballot on or about May 18th 2004 and we need help with all aspects of the campaign from research and policy to publicity, organizing town hall public educational forums, developing endorsement and speakers lists, fund-raising, database management, etc. We need area coordinators to help distribute our flyers as the campaign

"The citizens group hopes to organize alternative proposals (many of which already exist) into a genuine public process which can change the way we think about and deal with people who break the law."

progresses.

The proposed new jail would cost more than $100 million, and open in 2007

with 93% of its capacity filled already, based upon current projections.

Community input on alternatives to building a new jail has been lacking, according to community organizers familiar with the proposal. That will be a central part of the campaign—to conduct a broad public input process about what is needed to reduce the need for a new and bigger jail every 20 years.

The citizens group hopes to organize alternative proposals (many of which already exist) into a genuine public process which can change the way we think about and deal with people who break the law.

For example 68 of 100 homeless people who 'reside' in the Thurston area, according to a recently survey, stated that they have been incarcerated at least once since becoming homeless. Why aren't we talking about funding transitional housing for the homeless, especially those caught in the dragnets that target the homeless.

The Sheriff's office has estimated that over 80% of the jail population either have a mental illness, and/or suffer from drug and/or chemical abuse diseases, including co-occuring diseases. Those with a serious mental illness serve substantially more jail time than those who are not mentally ill who commit similar crimes.

So where is the funding coming from for the services that will be needed by the recently proposed Mental Health Court? The 15 bed facility being built by the county is a start in the right direction but falls way short of the actual present, let alone long terms, needs. Another proposal by Bill Pilkey for a 100 bed facility for $20 million comes closer to the mark of what's needed in our community, just in terms of those who are likely to be caught up in the criminal justice system by default.

The proposed new jail would be the second such facility in our area; LewisCounty has already built a facility designed to house inmates from out of

"The United States already has the highest prison population in the history of the world, per capita - more than 2 million in prisons."

thearea (rent-a-bed) and it is 90% or more complete as of this writing. Tacoma recently completed a 1000 bed facility for $57 million.

The United States already has the highest prison population in the history of the world, per capita - more than 2 million in prisons. So has building more and more prison beds reduced the crime rate? There are more humane and cost effective solutions to crime than building more jails and prisons.

We already spend more than $202 per person in Thurston county on the criminal justice system and that amounts to 77% of the entire general fund budget for the county. If this bond issue passes, where will the money come from to pay for increased needs for programs aimed at reducing crime and recidivism such as pre-trial services, parole, mental health court and treatment alternatives, drug courts & treatment and other alternatives to incarceration.

The JPOC has already appointed and heard back from a 13 member citizen team that were asked to "examine assumptions and conclusions related to the Justice Center Project and determine whether those assumptions and conclusions were reasonable and appropriate."

And while that hand picked citizens team came agreed with the JPOC assumption that we "immediately invest in additional and improved jail facilities in order to improve the working conditions for employees and living conditions for inmates", they also stated that: " The problem of how to fund criminal justice programs, and especially alternative options to incarceration, need to be addressed now, rather than put off until after a new facility is planned or constructed."

Furthermore, the previously ordered Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the Mottman Industrial Park location, which has at least 500 homes within a mile of the proposed site, has been delayed and may not be out until April—after the bond issue comes before the voters. What's wrong with this picture?

We can do better. We can direct more money at the front end to crime prevention programs, drug treatment, mental health treatment, domestic violence programs, etc. which will lower the crime rate and help reduce recidivism. Or we can continue to pay through the nose at the backend for the next 20 years for a bigger jail. We can't do both. The choice is up to all of us.

To get involved in this campaign contact Chris Stegman at 705-3528.

Patriot Act Watch

New Bill Gives FBI Greater Intelligence Gathering Tools

Howard Rosenfeld

The ACLU reports that 220 communities have passed resolutions condemning the Patriot Act and supporting civil liberties. The Sacramento (CA) City Council, voted 8-1, to oppose the Patriot Act on November 13th before an overflowing room of local residents and community groups. The resolution sparked intense debate with more than a 100 people lined up outside the chambers. The vote came after two hours of comments from a wide range of groups opposing the Patriot Act. The overwhelming support of the City Council made Sacramento the 212th community to pass such a resolution. Forums, speak-outs and other educational gatherings continue at a blistering pace all around the country in an effort to teach people about the Patriot Act, how it was adopted into law, what its implications are and its future.

A myriad of bills are working their ways through the Senate and House of Representatives (for the full list, visit the Bill of Rights Defense Committee at http://www.bordc.org/legislation.htm).

The SAFE Act of 2003 (see last month's column) has been referred to House committees on the Judiciary and Intelligence and is gathering co-sponsors. The **Benjamin Franklin True Patriot Act** has also been referred to various House committees and is gathering co-sponsors. The **Otter and Sanders amendments**, which would amend sections 213 and 215 of the Patriot Act, respectively, are still gaining steam and its supporters are trying to get it to remain part of the final "Omnibus" bill. Section 213 is the "sneak and peek" provision and the Section 215 amendment would prevent the government from looking at the books we are checking out from the library or buying from a bookstore.

I was alerted to an article in The Duluth News Tribune by the Bill of Rights Defense Committee web site (www.bordc.org). It describes a new intelligence bill just passed by the Senate and previously passed by the House of Representatives called the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (H.R. 2417 & S. 1025). It expands the types of businesses from which the FBI can demand records using national security letters without judicial oversight. Most details of the bill are secret, including the total costs of the programs, estimated to be about $40 billion. (http://www.duluthsuperior.com/mld/duluthsuperior/news/7320049.htm)

In a disturbing development which isn't directly Patriot Act-related, the New York Times obtained a classified memo from the FBI which gives police detailed instructions on how to target and monitor lawful political demonstrations under the rubric of fighting terrorism (http://www.nytimes.com/2003/11/23/national/23FBI.html).

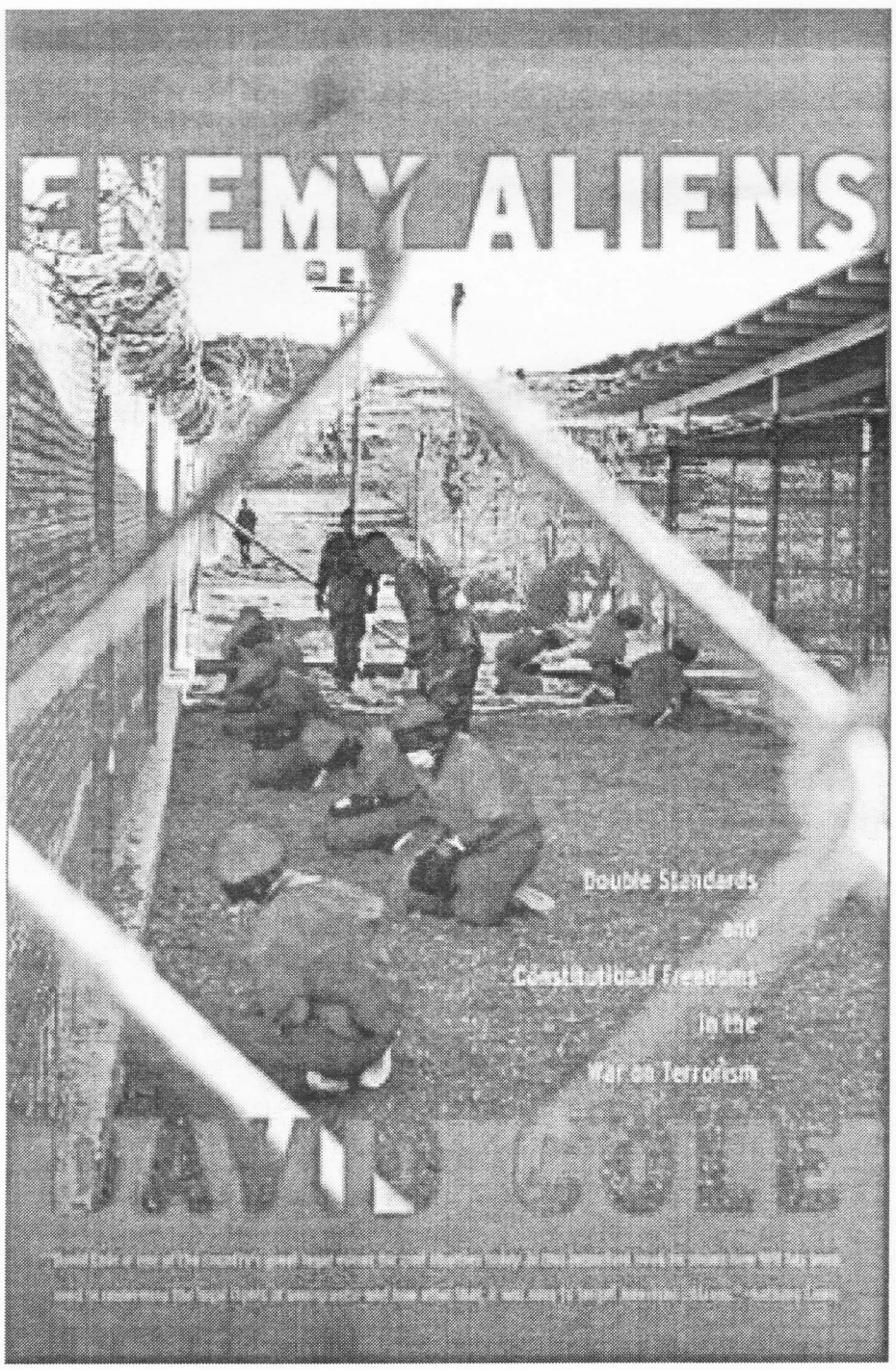
"The memorandum, which the bureau sent to local law enforcement agencies last month in advance of antiwar demonstrations in Washington and San Francisco, detailed how protesters have sometimes used "training camps" to rehearse for demonstrations, the Internet to raise money and gas masks to defend against tear gas. The memorandum analyzed lawful activities like recruiting demonstrators, as well as illegal activities like using fake documentation to get into a secured site."

The ACLU immediately condemned the memo,

"Attorney General Ashcroft has dismissed critics of the Justice Department's tactics as 'hysterical' and has even said that such criticism aids the terrorists," said Anthony D. Romero, ACLU Executive Director. "But this bulletin confirms that the federal government is targeting innocent Americans engaged in nothing more than lawful protest and dissent. The American people deserve an explanation for what is clearly a return to the days of J. Edgar Hoover's spying tactics."

There are myths circulating about the sunsetting provisions of the Patriot Act. Many provisions of the act do indeed sunset in 2005, including "roving surveillance authority" under FISA (Sec. 206 where the FISA court now may authorize intercepts on any phones or computers that the target of the investigation may use), access to records and other items under FISA (Sec. 215 which amends 50 USC §1862 to allow application to the FISA court for an order to compel the production of any business record or tangible thing from anyone for any investigation), and Sec. 201 which broadens the lists of crimes where police can place wiretaps on phones.

***"The American people deserve an explanation for what is clearly a return to the days of J. Edgar Hoover's spying tactics,"* Anthony D. Romero, ACLU Executive Director**



However positive this is, Section 213 (sneak and peek) will not sunset, as is true of numerous other provisions of the Patriot Act. The Electronic Frontier Foundation has a great summary of those portions of the act that do and do not sunset in 2005 - http://eff.org/Privacy/Surveillance/Terrorism/20011031_eff_usa_patriot_analysis.php

With his recently published book, Enemy Aliens, David Cole°provides a distressing examination of the government's discrimination against aliens since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Cole is a law professor at Georgetown University Law School and legal affairs correspondent for The Nation.

°

Cole's thesis in Enemy Aliens also serves as a warning: Americans should worry about the way their government treats immigrants, for it is often a precursor to the way it will treat its citizens. Quoting Justice William O. Douglas, Cole reminds us that while it is easy to be aware of creeping oppression, and difficult to fight it, "[W]e all must be most aware of the change in the air…lest we become unwilling victims of the darkness."

Hit Elaine Cassel's website (mentioned in last months column) for a longer review of this book (http://babelogue.citypages.com:8080/ecassel/). In fact, Elaine Cassel has such good information about civil liberties and the Patriot Act, that I was strongly considering reprinting her entire column here – I just want to urge you to visit her website as soon as possible and read about the following developments:

- Vengeance, Thy Name is Ashcroft
- The Justices and Guantanamo
- USA Patriot Act Spawns Like Laws, Like Abuses, Around the World
- FBI To Web Site Owner: We Are Watching You

(about www.cryptome.org)

The Struggle to Survive Continues in Rafah, Gaza

Will Hewitt (*With ISM Rafah report from Laura Gordon*)

Rafah is a city of 160,000 inhabitants located at the southern end of the Gaza strip, next to the Egyptian border. Most of the people who live there fled homes inside what is now Israel during the 1948 war, which established Israel as a sovereign nation state and displaced over 750,000 indigenous Palestinian Arabs. Palestinian refugees relocated to Gaza, which territory fell under Egyptian governmental control for some years, then was annexed by Israel in the 1967 war.

I traveled to Rafah in January of this year to do human rights activism with the International Solidarity Movement. I was inspired and impressed by the courage and wisdom of common people who live in Rafah and face the brutal violence of military occupation on a daily basis. While I was there, the Israeli army (IDF) killed my friend and fellow activist Rachel Corrie while the ISM group was doing a direct action to block house demolitions. Within the next few weeks, two internationals were shot by the IDF in Rafah: James Miller, a British TV journalist, shot while filming house demolitions, and Tom Herndall, a British ISM activist and photographer, shot while helping children escape IDF gunfire. Miller died; Herndall is in a coma hooked up to life support. He will not recover. All evidence indicates that IDF soldiers knew exactly who these internationals were and why they were in Rafah; these killings of civilians were, if not explicitly ordered by IDF commanders, implicitly condoned by the military hierarchy. There has been no independent investigation of Rachel or James' death, and the IDF, after issuing conflicting false cover stories about how Rachel died, keeps even the results of its own military police investigation secret.

Targeting of international civilians, and the complete lack of accountability for IDF soldiers and commanders, illustrates for foreigners the daily life of locals who live in Rafah: targeting of civilians and children by the IDF is routine, as is destruction of civilian infrastructure such as municipal water, sewer, and electric systems, roads, and blanket shooting into neighborhoods from tanks and sniper towers. Killing of Palestinian civilians is virtually never investigated in Israel.

After the high profile death/injuries of Corrie, Miller, and Herndall Israeli border police effectively closed all border crossings into Gaza. It is now possible to get in only if you have extra paperwork, such as an Israeli press card, proving that you are not a human rights activist. The largest invasion of Rafah ever happened in mid October. Tanks, armored bulldozers, and apache helicopters overran several Rafah neighborhoods, destroying approximately 200 houses, rendering nearly 2,000 already poor people homeless.

"Killing of Palestinian civilians is virtually never investigated in Israel."

Laura Gordon and Mohammed Queshta write in a November 19 ISM Rafah report:

"These days there is a heavy tension in the air. . . the level ofviolence seems much heavier now during Ramadan than in the past couple of months (with the exception of the massive invasion of October). More gunfire, a lot of gunfire, during the day.

We are spending much of our days visiting families who have lost children showed up unannounced at 2:30 AM and gave the family no warning before detonating their house. The man they were looking for was not there. A few houses down a 55 year old father was killed helping his son (another so called wanted man) escape. The father was shot a number of times and then run over twice by the military Humveys on his way back from helping his son escape.

His son fared only a little better. He was shot in the arm while climbing a fence to escape. . . he was able to maintain his stamina to finish climbing the fence, run through a number of fields of farmland, tear open a hole in an agave cactus hedge with his bare hands, run through another field of crops and then desperately pound on the door of someone he did not know to ask for help, All while being chased by the military jeeps and followed by the Apache helicopters.

He was caught in the house of the man who took him in. The military surrounded the house and shot up the walls. Then they blasted open the door and sent in half a dozen dogs with video cameras strapped to their backs to search the inside of the house remotely. The dogs found the man and the military then entered the house and arrested both the owner of the house (who did not know the man he let in other than that the man neededhelp) and the wanted man. Neither has been released yet. On the way out of the house one of the soldiers dropped a 2 kg flachette explosive in the middle of the house which destroyed the interior of the house.

The night before last, the military entered Block O to conduct more supposed tunnel searching missions. We were unable to get into the area yesterday, since the cousin of our local coordinator was killed in the night by apache gunfire during the operation."

*[In addition to his work in ISM, Will Hewitt is a member of the **Olympia-Rafah Sister City Project** which actively promotes and fosters connections between the people of Olympia and Rafah for the purpose of **strengthening cross-cultural awareness** and **international cooperation**, **justice**, and **peace**.*

*This project was initially envisioned by **Rachel Corrie** who believed that **cultural exchanges between our two communities could result in significant social change**. The SisterCity Project is holding a fundraising event and auction on Dec. 13 to raise money for medical relief and to send a delegation of Olympians to Rafah. See ad below.]*

Olympia-Rafah Sister City Project's

Winter Celebration
Fundraising Event

Please join us for an evening to celebrate many traditions: **Eid al-Fitr**, **Hanukkah**, **Christmas** and others.

We will have keynote speakers from three religious faiths: Islam, Judaism and Christianity. Enjoy Washington **wines, artisan cheeses, and traditional snacks** in the comfortable atmosphere of the Olympia Ballroom. Performances will include live music and Palestinian traditional dancers. Our fundraising activity for the evening will be a **silent auction** and **raffle** with many wonderful items and services for you to bid on and take home. For more information or to bid on auction items now, see our website at www.orscp.org.

All donations will be used to support ORSCP projects, including medical relief for Rafah.
Saturday, December 13, 2003 at 7PM

The Olympia Ballroom
116 Legion Way, Olympia, WA

Upstairs from the Urban Onion
$20 donation, no one will be turned away

Oh Good, Then the War's Over?

Ron Jacobs

Great news!! The Iraqis will be running their own country by June 2004. Once again, the mission will be accomplished. It must be time to celebrate. George Bush can be elected president and continue his mission to make the world a safer place. Yay! As the saying goes, if you believe this, then there's a bridge I know of that's for sale.

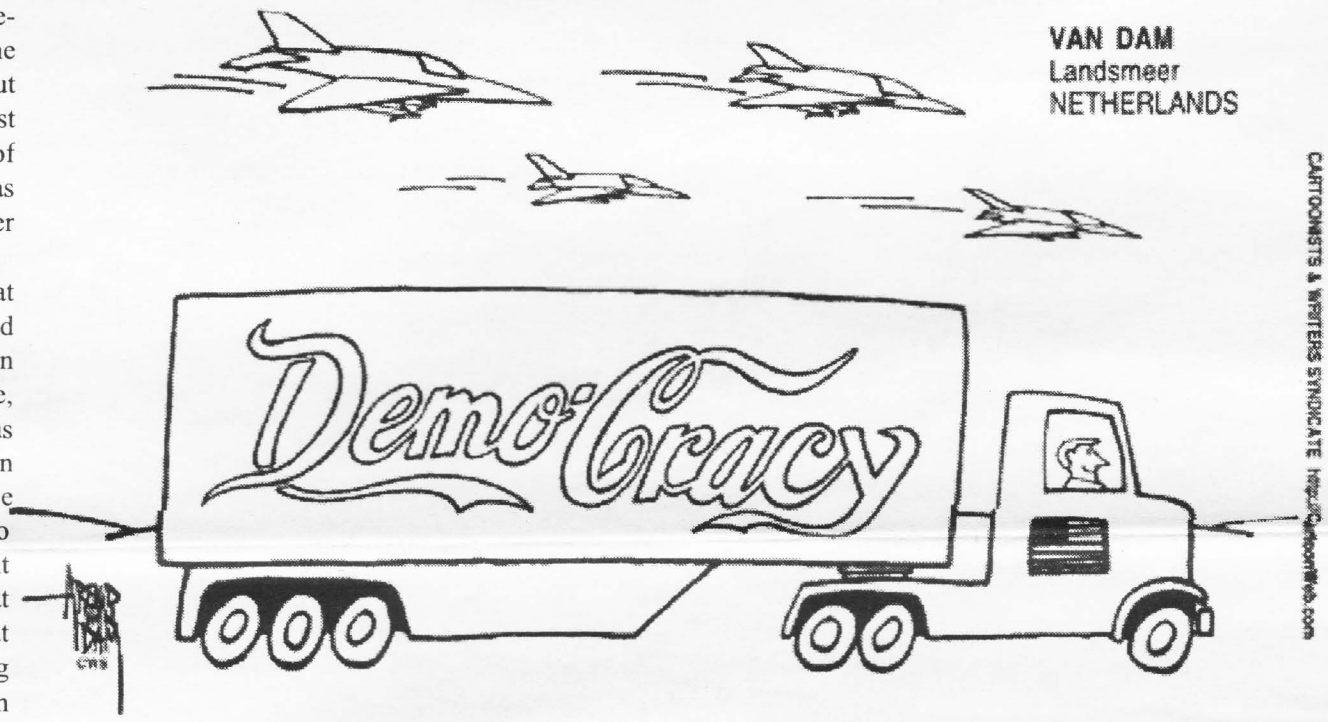
This latest pronouncement from the Bush administration regarding the situation in Iraq is not only insulting to Americans, it illustrates to the world that the US continues to operate on the assumption that the Iraqi people are stupid. If the US policy isn't based on this assumption, then why the hell does it continue to insult their intelligence? After all, even a cursory glance of history shows that the US is extremely unlikely (like it ain't gonna happen) to allow a truly independent Iraq to exist any time soon. These headlines about Iraqi transfer of power are just one more strand in the web of deception that Washington has spun to maintain its war over there.

Besides the fact that the so-called transfer is timed to occur during the stretch run in the US presidential race, there is other, more ominous fine print in administration statements regarding the change in faces scheduled to take place in Baghdad next summer. Foremost among that fine print is the insistence that the US military is not going anywhere. It is staying put. In fact, according to Bush and Rumsfeld, the troops could well be there for many more years. Even if the nominal command of those troops shifts to another body (say the UN or NATO), the fact remains that it is the US military that will be propping up the new Iraqi "government."

If this is the case, then what would a transfer of power from the occupation authority to an Iraqi council really mean? One need only look to America's other current war to get a glimpse at the answer to this question. You know—Afghanistan—where the women were freed from religious extremist persecution and everybody's safe and living a nice comfortable life thanks to the bombardment of their country for a few weeks by the US Air Force. Afghanistan—where democracy flourishes and peace is prevalent, thanks to those wonderful folks in the US Special Forces. Yeh, Afghanistan—where the US soldiers are greeted with flowers and feasts and never have to use their weapons.... Anyhow, you get my point: no matter what some Iraqis might hope, the "transfer of power" being promised to them by the United States is a sham. It will mean very little on the ground, except in that it could pave the way for a civil war as those who want the US out wage war against those who throw their lot in with the Americans.

Speaking of the latter, check out who is on record as looking forward to the transfer: Ahmed Chalabi and Jalal Talabani. Both of these men are beholden to the US and its military and intelligence agencies for their prominence in post-Saddam Iraq. Although they have differences with the US (mostly over who gets what portion of the monies involved in Iraq's post-invasion reality), these men and the groups they represent owe their continued existence to CIA and Pentagon funds. Consequently, they see the metamorphosis from an overt occupation authority to a proxy US government with Iraqi faces to be to their benefit. This is because they stand a very good chance of being powerful figures in that puppet regime.

"Billions of US dollars are being spent to maintain the occupation and things just seem to get worse."



Let's go back further though. Before Afghanistan to Vietnam. While not a model that Washington likes to point to, there are some parallels between that country's history and the governing structure being proposed for Iraq. After taking over the war against the liberation forces from the French in the mid-1950s, the US set up a proxy regime in the southern half of Vietnam and created the country of South Vietnam. Populated largely by Catholics beholden to the imperial powers, the South Vietnamese government existed solely because it was propped up by American money and its military. Any elections that it won—elections that were vain attempts by the US to provide the regime some legitimacy in the world—were rigged by the CIA and its cohorts and made very little difference to the insurgency against it or the population that supported that insurgency. These insurgents were popular among the population and existed in true guerrilla fashion like "fish in the sea."

In short, the scenario in South Vietnam looked like this: the US proxy regime in Saigon was composed of Vietnamese with financial, cultural and sociological ties to the west (France, then the United States). These individuals served at the whim of the leadership in DC, which is why the CIA allowed/assisted in the coup that killed South Vietnamese president Diem in 1963, when he refused to follow the US game plan for the region. In addition, the regime itself existed only because of the incredible amounts of money pumped into it by US taxpayers. As for the South Vietnamese military (ARVN), some of its members were anti-communist zealots committed to fighting the liberation forces and their communist supporters, but most of them were just men looking for a paycheck. Consequently, they left most of the fighting up to the Americans. In the end, it was the ARVN's lack of will that contributed to the victory of the insurgency more than even the US withdrawal of its ground forces. It can be reasonably argued that the Saigon government was doomed to failure from the start even if the US had done more than it did. The southern Vietnamese people never saw it as their legitimate representative no matter who was at its head and suffered from infiltration by the resistance throughout its tenure. The US, in its arrogance, truly believed that it could overcome not only the odds it faced from its puppet regime, but also generations of Vietnamese resistance to foreign invaders. Suffice it to say that Washington misjudged.

Let's get back to Iraq in late 2003. The US occupation is (literally) under fire and risks losing its support even amongst those sectors of society that initially supported its presence. Simultaneously, the insurgent forces are becoming bolder and more deadly. In addition, their support amongst the civilian population continues to grow; especially now as US forces become more indiscriminate in their attacks and more civilians become casualties. Billions of US dollars are being spent to maintain the occupation and things just seem to get worse. So, what is Washington's solution? Change the face of the occupation. Put Iraqis beholden to the US in positions of nominal power while retaining actual control of the regime. Hold elections where the results are ensured to maintain US control of the country and call the whole show a democracy. Create a national army made up of some fierce supporters of the US-built regime and thousands of Iraqis who just need a paycheck. Meanwhile, keep the US military in country and let them do the real fighting against the insurgency—an insurgency that functions like "fish in the sea." Of course, the continued US military presence will be at the "invitation" of the new "Made in the USA" regime. Despite the fact that this regime would exist at the behest of the US, some of its members might actually start pushing for real independence. If this happens, they could meet the same fate as Mr. Diem did in November 1963. Eventually, if history is any indicator, there will be some level of civil conflict between those Iraqis who depend on the US for their survival and health, and those Iraqis who want the US in all its forms out of their country. Then, the US would find itself in a familiar role fighting indigenous peoples for control of their country by claiming that the US is supporting the genuine government.

"Hold elections where the results are ensured to maintain US control of the country and call the whole show a democracy."

What this means in human terms is simple: more death, more destruction, and more despair. What it means in political terms is harder to predict. If the US managed somehow to defeat the insurgency, it might give Washington a few years of unchallenged domination of the Middle East. If the US is defeated by the insurgency and withdraws from the region it might mean a whole new round of popular insurgency. Or, if those people in the US opposed to the US war on Iraq made it their goal, they could mount a popular movement against the worsening situation and force a US withdrawal, thereby allowing the Iraqis the chance to truly determine their own destiny.

Ron Jacobs, a former Olympia resident and long-time WIP writer, is author of The Way the Wind Blew: a history of the Weather Underground.

Frank Zappa...10 Years Gone

Greg Hohnholt

Frank Vincent Zappa died on December 4th, 1993 of prostate cancer, just a couple of weeks shy of his 54th birthday. He was a composer, guitarist, satirist, subversive, socio-anthropologist, prankster, and gadfly extraordinaire. Frank also had an uncanny knack of predicting the future; check out the following quote, for example:

"I don't think that Americans, in the way they think of themselves as being nice, kind, free, fair, good-natured, jolly little individuals, would willingly opt for fascism, but they could easily be tricked into it. All you have to do is tell them that it's a candy apple, or whatever the lies are that are going on right now. Literally, they are being molded into something that is as potentially dangerous to the rest of the world as Nazi Germany was in the '30's and '40s. But tricked into it by people who have just lulled them into this false sense of security, and they wave a little American flag over it and everybody just has this knee-jerk reaction that they've got to buy it." (April 1991)

What follows are some brief thoughts on our first decade without Frank Zappa, and why I think his work continues to be important and worth investigating.

Some context

Frank Zappa was born in Baltimore on December 21, 1940 ("Zappa" is Italian for "plow" or "hoe"). By the time he was thirteen, his family had moved six times. His first love was science, and his dad worked at a lot of weapons' labs. His family was devoutly Catholic; however, he attended parochial school for only a brief period, renouncing Christianity in general when he was eighteen: "Suddenly, the light bulb went on over my head; all the mindless morbidity and discipline was pretty sick— bleeding

"The whole foundation of Christianity is based on the idea that intellectualism is the work of the Devil." Frank Zappa

this, painful that, and no meat on Friday. What is this shit?"

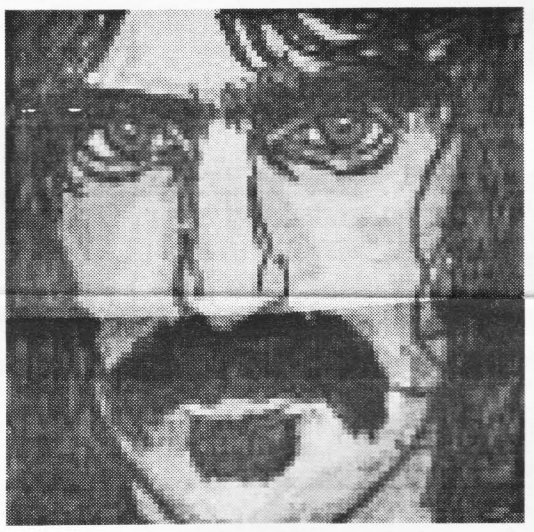
The political ramifications of America's Christian idolatry was not lost on Zappa, either: "This country has an anti-intellectual history that goes back to the first bundling board; you know, thinking is bad for you. As a matter of fact, you can trace it back to the beginning of Christian doctrine. The whole foundation of Christianity is based on the idea that intellectualism is the work of the Devil."

Also important to forming Zappa's iconoclastic world view were, indirectly or directly: the Cold War, television as a subliminal enforcer of white, middle class norms, black R 'n' B records, doo-wo ; the composers Igor Stravinsky, Anton Webern, Edgard Varese, and Charles Ives, the '80's rise of the religious right, and in my own view, the industry-wide use of motivational/psychological research in mass advertising in the mid 1950s onward. (See Vance Packard's The Hidden Persuaders [New York, D. McKay Co., 1957] for lost history on this latter trend).

Freak Out!

Zappa's first LP with his ensemble the Mothers of Invention, *Freak Out!*, could have been subtitled "Variations on American Irony". Released in 1966, it was arguably the first rock concept album, and amazingly, it was a double album to boot (how many rock groups make their debut LP a double album?)

The conceptual paradigm of "freaking out" connoted a lot of social movements shaking up middle class life in the mid-1960's, particularly the generation gap and the Watts riots. Zappa the composer, however, would adopt the 'freak out' as his central organizing principle and guiding aesthetic throughout his prolific recording and touring career. While ostensibly denoting a loss of contro, "freaking out" ironically meant maintaining a principled stand of individual expression against the rank hypocrisy of the rigid conformist forces of the mid-60s (in both conservative *and* progressive circles). Here's Zappa to explain: "You can't have progress without deviation from the norm, because if you don't go beyond the norm you can't have any progress. How do you invent something new if you're only doing normal stuff? You can't. You can only recycle the norms. So somebody has to take the chance and go outside the norms, and build the next thing."



In other words, Zappa and his gangly band of Mothers mangling of rock and pop genres in an avant garde mixmaster might appear to be a freak out, but if so, that was only because you had fallen for the all-American, red, white and blue shuck. *Freak Out!* compelled you to think (and maybe laugh) about the music you listened to as something more than just a product to be consumed. It forced you to ask questions like "What do I really hope to get out of this music?" and "Why would the old white farts who make my laws want to cover their 13 year old daughters in chocolate syrup and do the nasty on the White House lawn?" (Well, actually the Mothers second album, *Absolutely Free!,* would have you asking the latter question, but if you *did* ask the former question, you'd probably end up asking the second).

Misunderstandings?

Naturally, I don't have the space to walk you through the entire voluminous Zappa catalog, but I do think it worthwhile to removing a couple of mental blocks you may have coming to grips with his music. Why am I qualified to do this, you ask? Well, to be brutally honest, I didn't get this guy's music until well after his death, and that was only because I was on unemployment for a long time and was able to listen to enough of it to "freak out" myself (did you ever wonder *why* you are working longer hours now for less money? It's because Republicans don't *want* you to have the time to listen to anything *but* predigested puke!) I don't want *you*, dear reader, to have to make the same mistake.

"My personal view is that Zappa saw his music as an antidote to the brain-mangling evil mother's milk that TV's glass teat was force feeding U.S."

First Oft-Heard Complaint: "Zappa's music is *soulless*; it seems so calculated and self-indulgent." Funny thing, this complaint usually comes from Deadhead types whose whole behavior patterns are so calculated and self-indulging as to be a self-parody, but let's not go there.

Look, most of Zappa's music is tough to play and it had to be transcribed to be performed in accordance with the composer's vision. This is why Zappa had to disband the Mothers and eventually go exclusively with musicians who were ace sight readers. My personal view is that Zappa saw his music as an antidote to the brain-mangl ng evil mother's milk that TV's glass teat was force feeding U.S., and that in accordance with the 'freak out' aesthetic, his music had to have a programmatic function as well as an alternative entertainment value. Think of it as music that is contra-advertising to compel you to think in a different way above and beyond all the demographic categories your corporate slavemeisters want to identify wi h to sell you more of their shit.

Second Oft-Heard Complaint: "All these songs about *sex;* Gawd, why is Zappa so obsessed with anal sex and blow-jobs, and other more unsavory things like spoo?"

I'll let Zappa speak for himself on this one; here's a dialogue exchange from a 1985 Senate hearing on 'porn rock':

Christian guy: Some of those things are not normal sexual relations.

FZ: It doesn't mean you have to *do* them. Information doesn't kill you...

CG: They're too young to know the difference.

FZ: Children learn the difference by receiving information which they can store and sort with your help as a parent. If you don't let them know about this stuff they'll grow up and be ignorant.

CG: I would rather have them ignorant of some things. [*Applause.*]

FZ: Anyone who would rather have their children be ignorant is making a mistake — because then they can be victims.

End game

OK, you're probably wanting to check out some CDs from the library about now. I'll just send you off with another prediction that Frank made; this is from "Jesus Thinks You're a Jerk" (1988). *Note to historical amnesiacs* — the "Pat" in the first line refers to Pat Robertson; but feel free to substitute the name of another famous religious conservative Republican currently residing in...well, you get the idea:

"What if Pat gets in the White House,
And suddenly — the rights of 'certain people' disappear *mysteriously*,
Now wouldn't that sort of qualify as an American Tragedy?
Especially if he covers it up, sayin', 'Jesus told it to me!'
I hope that we never see that day in the Land of the Free —
Or someday will we? Will we?
And if you don't know by now the truth of what I'm tellin' you,
Then surely I have failed somehow —
And Jesus will think I'm a jerk just like you."

Greg is a musician with eSKPee. He can be reached at jungophile@yahoo.com

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Project Censored's Annual List

The "Top Ten Censored Stories"

7. Treaty Busting By the United States Sources: Connections (6/02), The Nation (4/02), Ashville Global Report (6/20-26/02), Global Outlook (Summer 2002)"The US is a signatory to nine multilateral treaties that it has either blatantly violated or gradually subverted," says Project Censored. These include the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the Treaty Banning Antipersonnel Mines and the Kyoto Protocol on global warming. Just as the Bush administration is crowing about the possibility of Saddam Hussein manufacturing nuclear or chemical weapons, it is violating treaties meant to curb these threats, including the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Chemical Weapons Commission. **8. US/British Forces Continue Use of Depleted Uranium Weapons Despite Massive Evidence of Negative Health Effects** Sources: The Sunday Herald (3/30/03), Hustler Magazine (6/03), Children of War (3/03)The eighth story on the list deals with another subject that victims have tried to get into the mainstream media for over a decade — the US's use of depleted uranium in Iraq, in both the recent invasion and in the Gulf War. Depleted uranium (DU) was also used in Afghanistan, Kosovo and Bosnia. The writers cited, including the hardcore porn magazine Hustler, note that cancer rates have skyrocketed in Iraq since the first Gulf War, most likely because of the massive contamination of the soil with DU from the explosive, armor-piercing munitions. US soldiers are also victims of this travesty, suffering Gulf War syndrome and other ailments that many feel sure are linked to their exposure to DU. Reese Erlich, a freelance journalist who reported on the topic for a syndicated radio broadcast and related web site report, said that the federal government has dealt with the issue of DU the way the tobacco industry deals with its liability problems. "They'll fog the issue so no one can say for sure what's happening," he said. "They'll commission studies so they can say, 'There are conflicting reports,' 'We need more information.'" He noted that while the US media is quiet about the issue, it is a hot topic in the international press. "When you get outside the US, the media is much more critical," he said. "They refer to it as a weapon of mass destruction. This will be a legacy the US has left in Iraq. Long after the electricity is repaired and the oil wells are pumping, children will be getting cancer. The US knew this would happen, it can't claim ignorance." **9. In Afghanistan: Poverty, Women's Rights and Civil Disruption Worse then Ever** Sources: The Nation (10/14/02), Left Turn (3-4/03), The Nation (4/29/02), Mother Jones (7-8/02) Mainstream Coverage: Toronto Star (3/2/03)Though his work isn't cited here, Erlich also reported on the topic of the ninth story on the list, the continuing poverty, civil disruption and repression of women in Afghanistan. While the country has virtually dropped off the radar screen in the US press and public consciousness, it is suffering its worst decade of poverty ever. Warlords and tribal fiefdoms continue to rule the country, and women are as repressed as ever, contrary to the feel-good images of burqa-stripping that have been broadcast in the media here. "Reporters by and large don't go to Afghanistan to report on what they see," said Erlich, who spent several weeks reporting in the country. "They go to the state department officials, so everything is filtered through these rose-colored glasses, saying things are getting better. But they're not." **10. Africa Faces New Threat of New Colonialism** Source: Left Turn (7-8/02), Briarpatch, Vol. 32, No. 1, Excerpted from The CCPA Monitor, (10/02), New Internationalist (1-2/03)While Afghanistan is being essentially ignored, the tenth story on the list shows how African countries are getting plenty of attention from the US — but not the kind of attention they need. These stories deal with the formation in June, 2002 of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, or NEPAD, by a group of leaders from the world's eight most powerful countries (the G8) who claim to be carrying out an anti-poverty campaign for the continent. But the group doesn't include the head of a single African nation, and critics charge that the plan is more about opening the continent to international investment and looting its resources than fighting poverty. "NEPAD is akin to Plan Colombia in its attempt to employ Western development techniques to provide economic opportunities for international investment," says Project Censored.

For more info visit the Web site at www.projectcensored.org. The 15 stories cited as runners-up to the top ten most censored stories of the year are the following: #11: U.S. Implicated in Taliban Massacre #12: Bush Administration Behind Failed Military Coup in Venezuela #13: Corporate Personhood Challenged #14: Unwanted Refugees a Global Problem #15: U.S. Military's War on the Earth #16: Plan Puebla-Panama and the FTAA #17: Clear Channel Monopoly Draws Criticism#18: Charter Forest Proposal Threatens Access to Public Lands #19: U.S. Dollar vs. the Euro: Another Reason for the Invasion of Iraq #20: Pentagon Increases Private Military Contracts #21: Third World Austerity Policies: Coming Soon to a City Near You #22: Welfare Reform Up For Reauthorization, but Still No Safety Net #23: Argentina Crisis Sparks Cooperative Growth #24: Aid to Israel Fuels Repressive Occupation in Palestine #25: Convicted Corporations Receive Perks Instead of Punishment.

Green Party Celebration Dinner

Drew Hendricks

The Green Party of South Puget Sound hosted its first annual election celebration dinner this year, on the evening of Certification Day, November 19th. Candidates and campaign supporters gathered to discuss the elections and learn from their experiences, while sharing their home made dishes and having fun after a hard campaign.

Certification Day is the last day the Auditor counts the ballots and announces the final official results of the election. It is always two weeks after the election.

Two of the guests of honor were Olympia City Council members Laura Ware (incumbent) and TJ Johnson (returning after a narrow loss in 2001). They each spoke about their campaigns, how they worked, and how they won. The two candidates worked closely together; their volunteers carried their literature to the voters in a combined doorbelling effort on two separate weekends during the election. They also shared strategy and training, beginning very early in the campaign. This included an effort to reach every precinct directly through doorbelling, as well as direct mail, phone banking, and letters to the editor of the Olympian. It also included direct contact with every neighborhood association, and other community groups, which were working on public interest issues such as low-income housing and the ConArtist Center.

This combined campaign support was mirrored by their opponents, who were heavily supported by the Police Guild and the development interests, which had pushed for the ConArtist Center. But the key to the success of our combined campaign turned out to be separate literature pieces. The two corporate candidates, Sandra Miller and David Kent, used a single piece which was simply too vague and slick. A later piece mailed by Miller's campaign used an attack on Laura's 'chickens' issue, calling it "silly." Sandra Miller got the smallest number of votes of any of the Olympia City Council candidates.

TJ's and Laura's literature pieces were distinct from each other, and the details available on them allowed the voters to directly contact the candidates. The difference was key to their victory margins, over 1,000 voters each. Their long experience in community organizing also helped. TJ has been an organizer for years, and a local Green Party member for as long as we have had a local Green Party. Laura has been on the City Council for eight years and joined the Green Party in June of 2003.

Laura Ware and TJ Johnson had each been endorsed in this election by the Green Party of South Puget Sound. The event was videotaped for possible use in future campaign training.

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The Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition presents WROC Night Out!

Bring your clothes, toys, books & stuff you no longer need for a swap and discussion on creating a formal resource sharing network.

Monday, December 1st 6 – 8 pm

First United Methodist Church 1224 Legion Way SE Join us at 5:30 for a potluck. On site child care provided. **For more information, call 360-352-9716.**

Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition 701 Franklin Street SE Olympia, WA 98501

ArtWROC Winter Bazaar

Join us for a great party to raise $$ for WROC and celebrate local artists. Dinner and live jazz from the Carlysle Group Dessert auction * activities for the kids

Saturday, December 6th 3 – 9 pm First Christian Church 701 Franklin Street SE

WROC, the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition, is a nonprofit, grassroots organization made up of low-income parents and allies. WROC's mission is to affect social and economic justice by educating and empowering low income parents, especially those receiving public assistance, to effect positive change in their communities and in their lives.

Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition 701 Franklin Street SE Olympia, WA 98501

Copwatch Project

Olympia Copwatch has begun a campaign to collect and analyze every known instance of the use of the TASER in our community. We have begun by requesting all of the Olympia Police Department's paperwork on their use of force. So far we have waited since mid-September for the documentation. We have reached an agreement with the city, which should produce some documents soon.

Since we began our request for documents, at least three more people have been TASED. So we need your help to keep up with the new cases as they come in.

If you or anyone you know of has been TASED, please contact Drew Hendricks at 870-3127. We need to know the date, approximate time, and the name of the agency or officer who used the weapon. If you would like, you can remain anonymous. Email users can contact drewhendricks@hotmail.com

Art Across Borders Exhibit

Art Across Borders, a traveling exhibit of contemporary Iraqi and Palestinian artwork, is coming to Olympia February 6-29, 2004. Local organizers, Christi McGinley and Julia Moore are now calling for **volunteers** in two categories: 1) donors of art work or services for the silent auction, 2) exhibit hosts/hostesses for 4 hour shifts.° Where? **ART HOUSE DESIGNS**, 420-B Franklin St. SE, Olympia, WA. Host duties? Welcome guest speakers and cultural/educational event persons, serve coffee/tea, sign in guests, hand out brochures, direct visitors to Silent Auction table. Art House staff will be doing business as usual; no opening or lock-up duties required. Show hours: Tues-Sat 10 am-6pm, Curious? call Julia 459-4001 or email juliasews@comcast.net. Also see our website www.aabolympia.org for all exhibit details. I will schedule a vol. orientation mtg. before the event to answer all questions and to receive your generous donations for the Silent Auction. Thank you for supporting a creative cultural community/world event!

BRAZIL BEAT PARTY HITS 'EL GUANACO'

Brazilian Group and Latin-style Restaurant Team Up

For Music, Dance, and Dinner

This December, as the holidays ring in, the local group Organization for Brazilian Solidarity (OBRAS) will host a Brazilian Beat dance party, with every Brazilian dance rhythm imaginable.

DJ Brady will spin Brazilian dance tunes in the dance space next to El Guanaco. OBRAS will also host a Silent Auction of local and regional arts and services, and items coming directly from Brazil. Participants can also enjoy Salvadoran food and drink the Brazilian favorite, the "caipirinha." This event is to celebrate culture while raising funds for two well-established projects in some of the most impoverished regions of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

The Brazil Beat dance party will be at El Guanaco Restaurant, located at 415 Water Street, in downtown Olympia. Brazil Beat is Saturday, December 13 from 8:00pm to 2am. $4 to $7 cover. Food will be served until 10pm. The bar stays open until 2am.

Ana Paula MacArthur and Lucilene Whitesell founded OBRAS a year ago, to raise funds for worthy projects in Brazil and to create opportunities to share cultural events in Olympia.

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If you'd like more information about OBRAS, or to schedule an interview with Ana Paula or Will MacArthur, please call Ana Paula and Will at (360) 705-4766 or e-mail Will at willymac@zhonka.net

28th Annual Holiday Peace Vigil

SATURDAY DECEMBER 20, 12 noon to 1 p.m. at Percival Landing, Olympia

The public is invited to participate in Olympia's **TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL HOLIDAY PEACE VIGIL SATURDAY DECEMBER 20 from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.** on the **Percival Landing** boardwalk beside Water Street between State and Fourth.

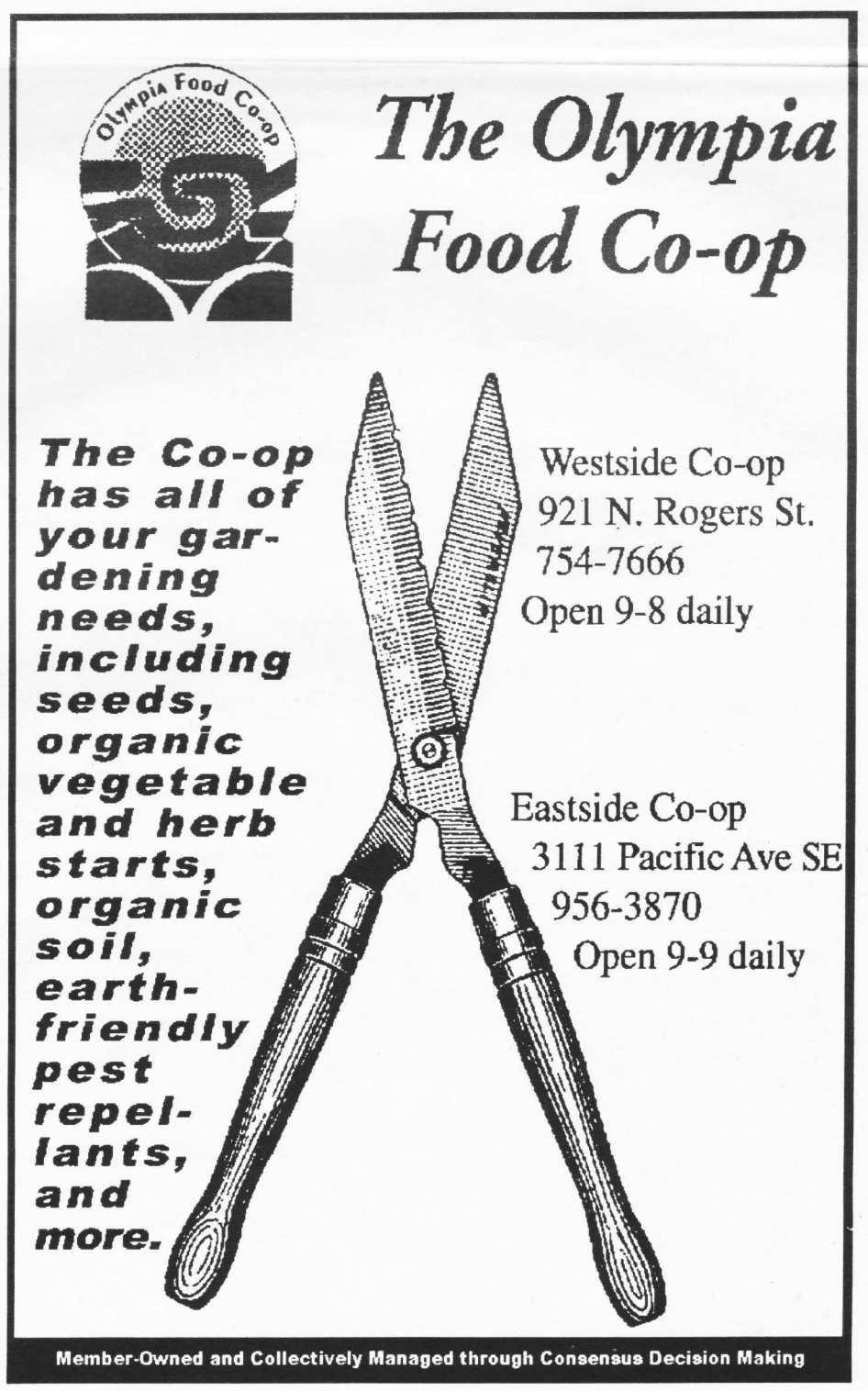
The annual vigil is an Olympia tradition. Signs are provided, but participants may bring their own. Children are welcome. Participants may enjoy free refreshments afterward nearby.

"During this holiday season of joy and good will, let us set aside all violence and militarism, which are the opposites of joy and good will," said Glen Anderson, vigil organizer. "The vigil gives participants and passersby an opportunity to pause and consider choosing peace instead of violence. Peace is so much more consistent with the holiday spirit."

The vigil is sponsored by the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR). The Olympia FOR has worked nonviolently since 1976 on a variety of peace and social justice issues. It is the local affiliate of a broadly interfaith, international pacifist organization founded in 1914.

The Olympia FOR has also sponsored a weekly peace vigil in Sylvester Park at the corner of Legion and Capitol Way, from 12 noon to 1 p.m. every Wednesday since March 5, 1980, and another from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the south end of Percival Landing since the late 1990s.

For information contact Glen Anderson at (360) 491-9093 or glen@olywa.net or visit the Olympia FOR's website, www.olyfor.org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